

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0002100

~~INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

20 Dec 1948

COUNTRY Costa Rica

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Factional Disputes in the Caribbean Legion

NO. OF PAGES <sup>2</sup>

PLACE [REDACTED] 25X1A0a  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1X6

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED] 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1A2a

1. Costa Rican Junta President Jose Figueres' order to the Caribbean Legion to vacate their quarters in the Artilleria Cuartel, San Jose, effective 1 December. (cf. [REDACTED]), followed closely upon the return of Rosendo Arguello Jr., commander in chief of the Army of Liberation of Nicaragua to Costa Rica from Cuba on 18 November. Arguello Jr. stated on his return that he had received \$50,000 in revolutionary aid from the Cuban government. No reference was made to the Cayo Confites armaments controlled by Figueres. Another result of Arguello Jr.'s trip to Cuba was the consolidation of an informal alliance between himself and Juan Bosch, aide to Cuban President Prio, against Juan Rodriguez Garcia, General Ramirez, and their fellow Dominican members of the Caribbean Legion. 25X1A2g
2. Figueres had been paying 30,000 colones monthly to both Ramirez and Arguello Jr., for the support of their respective revolutionary groups since the end of the Costa Rican coup d'etat in May 1948, which established Figueres in power. Figueres also supplied quarters for the two factions, Ramirez' in the Artilleria Cuartel, and Arguello Jr.'s in Figueres' finca at Rio Conejo as well as in the Bella Vista Cuartel. When the latter was turned in to a museum on 1 December, Ramirez was likewise forced to vacate his quarters in the Artilleria Cuartel. Arguello's obvious plan was to take over the 560-odd rifles and ammunition that Ramirez had stored in the Cuartel, and also to take over command of such elements of Ramirez' men as were willing to follow him. It is thought certain, however, that most of the men will remain loyal to Ramirez pending aid promised to him by Juan Rodriguez. Major Adolfo Baez Bone, Col. Manuel Gomez, and other military figures are expected to resist incorporation by the Arguello faction.
3. The favoritism displayed by Figueres for Arguello Jr. over General Ramirez is another manifestation of the hold Arguello Jr. maintains over Figueres, which has been further explained by some of the more competent and sincere revolutionary elements, particularly the ex-members of the Nicaraguan Guardia Nacional. They are unanimously disgusted and discouraged by the recent internal strife among Legion leaders, and believe that Arguello Jr. is a crackpot megalomaniac without demonstrated military ability, who is much happier as supreme commander in San Jose than he could ever be in the field. Their favorite topic of conversation is the inexplicable nature of his influence over Figueres, and their conjectures range all the way from perversion to blackmail. The latter accusation is based on an incident in Mexico which

~~CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

☐ ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

~~Class. CHANGED TO: TS~~

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Date: 5/1 1978 By:

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002100710004-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

occurred in 1946-47 when both Arguello Jr. and Figueres were on an arms-buying mission. At that time it was alleged that they arranged to have a small quantity of arms confiscated and thereby explained the misappropriation of several thousand dollars of revolutionary funds with which they had been entrusted.

4. General Ramirez recently expressed great satisfaction over the Venezuelan coup d'etat and implied that the newly emerged government would be disposed to aid the Caribbean Legion against Somoza and Trujillo.
5. According to an unsubstantiated report, Juan Bosch was scheduled to arrive in San Jose on 26 November to confer with Figueres and bring Ramirez to terms. The same source stated that Bosch had procured a large quantity of arms in Mexico to ship to Costa Rica by boat.
6. It is known that Rosendo Arguello Jr. has offered \$8,000 for a boat put up for sale by an individual named Felipe Pozuelo, of the Sociedad Saprisa Pozuleo. The boat, named the "Tony Chillon," is described as similar to a U. S. Navy P.C., or 800-ton patrol craft. The Costa Rican government is cooperating fully with Arguello Jr. in his negotiations for the boat, which was scheduled to depart for Panama on 25 November to pick up a cargo of cement and whiskey.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~